


VAN DEN BERGEN - Facing Wisc.
Alber

DRAWING 21a

71.2009.03.0289

Sculptors-V



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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Albert L. van den Bergen
Racine, Wisconsin

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection







STATE OF ILLINOIS
Department of Public Health - Division of Vital Statistics
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Registration Dist. No. 4888

PLATE OF DEATH

County of Cook

Township of Oak Lawn

City of Oak Lawn

Primary Dist. No. 4288

Primary Dist. No. 41991

Full Name Albert Louis Van Dornenberg

Residence No. Oak Lawn Ill

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 16 yrs.

Sex Male

Color or Race White

Married, Widowed, or Divorced Married

Occupation of Deceased Carpenter

Age 71

Date of Birth September 8, 1850

Place of Birth Belgium

Name of Father Joseph Van Dornenberg

Name of Mother Lucie De Brinck

Place of Birth of Mother France

Informant Eugene Van Dornenberg

Address Oak Lawn Ill

Filed April 16, 1921

Registrar J. J. Schellman

ORIGINAL

Registered No. 3

City of Oak Lawn

Ward 1

St. 1

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Chicago Ill.

May 3, 1937

Dear Mr. Warren.

Enclosed please find post card of a monument to Abraham Lincoln which is located in Racine Wisconsin. In your work ~~these Heroic Monuments of~~ Heroic Statues in Bronze of Abraham Lincoln there is no mention or record of it. Will you kindly note the omission and let me know how it occurred.

Very Truly

Nels Jansen

2925 N. Talman Ave.

May 6, 1937

Mr. Nels Jansen
2925 North Talman Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mr. Jansen:

My only explanation of our failure to include the Racine Statue of Lincoln in our brochure is our apparent information that it was a statuette rather than a statue of the heroic size. If we have been mistaken in this, however, we certainly would be glad to be corrected, as it will be the only one apparently which we have missed. We shall immediately write to the Library at Racine and have someone make some accurate measurements so that we can determine whether or not it is a heroic statue or a statuette.

Thanking you for calling this matter to our attention,
we are

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

October 10, 1939

Racine Public Library
701 Main Street
Racine, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

We are endeavoring to complete our collection of pictures of the Heroic Statues in Bronze of Abraham Lincoln.

As you know, the famous Van Den Bergsz statue is located in Racine. Would it be possible for you to forward to us a picture of this statue?

Yours very truly,

M. A. Cook

RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
RACINE, WISCONSIN

JAMES E. FORNEY
FORNEY & HUNT, PRESIDENT
M. LOUISE HUNT, LIBRARIAN

October 13, 1939

Mr. M. A. Cook
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Mr. Cook:

We have been unable to secure a photograph of the bronze statute of Abraham Lincoln here in Racine, but we are inclosing a print of the statute.

I think there must be some mistake in your information concerning the sculptor of this statute. On a plate on this monument there is the following inscription, "Cast by American Art Bronze Foundry (Chicago). Leonard Volk, Sc." We feel sure, therefore, that Leonard Volk is the sculptor, not Van Den Bergen.

Yours very sincerely,

M. Louise Hunt

Librarian

MLH/eg



October 14, 1939

Miss M. Louise Hunt, Librarian
Racine Public Library
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Miss Hunt:

We are very pleased to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th and sorry to find that our information about the sculptor does not agree with that on the statue.

Our first information about the statue came to us from the American Art Bronze Foundry and it seems very strange that they would make such an error when they cast the statue.

Is it possible that there are two statues of Abraham Lincoln in Racine?

Would you recommend a photographer in Racine who would be reasonable in having the pictures taken of the statue, or statues?

Yours very truly,

M. A. Cook

RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
RACINE, WISCONSIN

JAMES S. FORNARY, PRESIDENT
M. LOUISE HUNT, LIBRARIAN

November 6, 1939

Mr. M. A. Cook
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

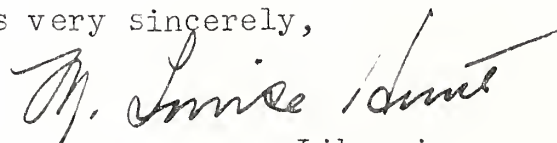
My dear Mr. Cook:

We are unable to find that there is a second
statue of Lincoln in Racine.

The Photo Crafts Shop, 526 College Avenue,
does good commercial photography at reason-
able prices, but, of course, there are many
others in the city also. The Leonard Studios,
333 Main Street, are generally considered very
high grade but their prices might be slightly
higher.

If we get any further verification of the sculp-
tor of this statue I will let you know.

Yours very sincerely,


Librarian

MLH/eg

October 14, 1939

Mr. Alfred J. Berchem
American Art Bronze Foundry
4921 W. Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Berchem:

In your letter of November 21, 1934 to Dr. Louis A. Warren you were very kind to give us the following information "THE OTHER LINCOLN STATUE IS AT RACINE, WIS., ERECTED IN 1915, BY THE B. H. MEYERS MONUMENT COMPANY OF THAT CITY. THIS STATUE WAS SCULPTORED BY VAN DEN BERGEN."

In a letter received this morning from the Racine Public Library we are informed that this is incorrect. They say that the following inscription is on the statue "CAST BY AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY [CHICAGO]. LEONARD VOLK, SC.".

Is it possible that there are two statues of Abraham Lincoln in Racine?

We would appreciate having any information which you are able to give us about the above discrepancy.

Yours very truly,

M. A. Cook

TELEPHONE AUSTIN 0356

AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY

JULES BERCHEM'S SON

Life Size and Colossal Statuary, Busts, Tablets, Bas-Reliefs

Chicago's Pioneer Art Bronze Founders — Since 1885

4921-31 W. LAKE STREET

CHICAGO

October
Twenty-first
1939-

Mr. M. A. Cook,
Lincoln National
Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

RE: Lincoln Statue-Racine, Wisc.

Dear Mr. Cook:

Acknowledging your favor of October 14th, the writer has taken time out to get back into our 1915 records concerning the Lincoln Statue as erected at Racine, Wisc.

At this time we can find but ONE statue, the one erected by the B. H. Monument Company of Racine, Wisc. This statue is of our manufacture, and the model is by Van Den Bergen. Just why the sculptor's name appears as Leonard Volk, Sc. is quite a mystery. It is the writer's opinion that the finisher inscribed this name to give the statue more authenticity, not realizing that a quarter of a century later it would come to light.

May this information clear your records, might the writer assist further?

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY
Jules Berchem's Son-

Jeffrey J. Berchem

LJB-1.

TELEPHONE AUSTIN 0356

American Art Bronze Foundry

JULES BERCHEM AND SON

Chicago's Pioneer Art Bronze Founders — Since 1885

LIFE SIZE AND COLOSSAL STATUARY,

BUSTS, TABLETS, BAS-RELIEFS

HONOR ROLLS

4921-31 W. LAKE STREET

CHICAGO November 21, 1934.

Dr. L. B. Warren,
Lincoln Museum,
Lincoln National
Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

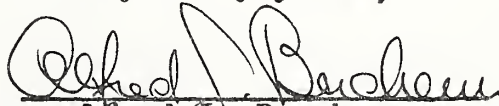
Having just made further inquiry with regards to the two 'missing' Lincoln statues not mentioned in your statues of Lincoln, it is agreeable to pass this information on to you.

One Lincoln statue is located in Oakwoods Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois. It is an eight foot or larger statue and was erected in the '90's, by the Lincoln Post on the Confederate Soldier's Burial Plot. (this statue is thought to be the same one as erected at Pena, Ill.) Have not been able to find out its sculptor.

The other Lincoln statue is at Racine, Wisc., a 7'4" overall statue, erected by in 1915, by the B.H. Meyers Monument Company of that city. This statue was sculptored by Van Den Bergen.

May this information be as desired, with kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,



Alfred J. Berchem

AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY
Jules Berchem & Son-

AJB-

November 25, 1934

Mr. Alfred J. Bergham
American Art Bronze Foundry
4921-31 W. Lake St.
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Bergham:

Thanks very much for gathering for me the information about the Lincoln statues of which we talked while you were here. We are very glad to have these facts for our files and if you come across other statues of Abraham Lincoln we would be very glad to learn about them.

It appears to me as if we have had enough rain within the past few days to wash out all the kinks in the Lincoln statue and I really think it has improved it considerably.

Those who have expressed themselves with reference to the statue in my presence have been complimentary, so I believe it will take on from time to time even a more favorable appearance.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

November 7, 1939

The B. E. Meyers Monument Company
Racine, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

In recent correspondence with Miss M. Louise Hunt, Librarian, Racine Public Library, I am informed that on the base of the Lincoln statue in Racine "CAST BY AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY [CHICAGO]. LEONARD VOLK, SC.".

The American Art Bronze Foundry informs me that they made the statue but that the B. E. Meyers Monument Company erected the statue.

The point which I wish to raise is that The American Art Bronze Foundry says that Van Den Bergen is the sculptor and not Leonard Volk.

Can you give us any information about the sculptor?

Yours very truly,

M. A. Cook

November 7, 1939

The Photo Crafts Shop
526 College Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

In recent correspondence with Miss M. Louise Hunt, Librarian, Racine Public Library, your organization has been mentioned to contact to furnish us with a good picture of the Lincoln Statue in Racine.

Will you please give us a price on an 8" X 10" glossy print of the statue?

Yours very truly,

M. A. Cook

September 1, 1942

Mr. Alfred J. Berchem
American Art Bronze Foundry
4921-31 West Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Berchem:

I am wondering if your could be of help
to us to explain the following.

In a letter to Dr. L. A. Warren on
November 21, 1934 you wrote "The other Lincoln statue is
at Racine, Wisc., a 7'4" overall statue, erected by in
1915, by the B. H. Meyers Monument Company of that city.
This statue was sculptored by Van Den Berghen."

In a letter sent to Mr. A. H. Griffith
on August 28, 1942 by the Racine Public Library is the
following "The only statue of Lincoln in Racine at the
present time bears the following inscription on a plate
'Cast By The American Art Bronze Foundry [Chicago].
Leonard Volk, Sc.'.....Unveiled Tuesday, February 12,
1934."

A stamped, self-addressed envelope is en-
closed for your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

M. A. Cook

MAG/c

September 17, 1942

Mr. Alfred J. Berchen
American Art Bronze Foundry
4921-31 West Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Berchen:

We are very much interested to know your reaction to our letter of September 1st in which we related the statement about the bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln in Racine.

If not asking too much, could we have your statement at this time regarding the Racine statue?

Yours very truly,

M. A. Cook

TELEPHONE AUSTIN 0356

AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY

JULES BERCHEM'S SON

Life Size and Colossal Statuary, Busts, Tablets, Bas-Reliefs

Chicago's Pioneer Art Bronze Founders—Since 1883

4921-31 W. LAKE STREET

CHICAGO September
Eighteenth
1942-

Mr. M. A. Cook,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Cook:

Acknowledging your letters of September 1st and the 17th, your first reached here during my two months of absence, due to operations having ceased here for the duration.

Going back over records and correspondence with you, my letter of November 21st 1934 stated that the statue was purchased in 1915. Where this date came from I am at loss to know, as our ledger account shows the purchase made in September 1923.

This statue may bear a plate with the inscription 'Cast by the American Art Bronze Foundry-(Chicago) Leonard Volk, Sc', unveiled Tuesday February 12th 1934. This date being almost eleven years after purchase? Rather the date 1934 should have read 1924, which would account for the purchase in advance of unveiling, a reasonable procedure.

Now in regards to the correct sculptor's name? Leonard Volk or Vanden Bergen? In a letter addressed to you under date of October 21st 1939; "At this time we can find but ONE statue, the one erected by the B.H. Meyers Monument Co. of Racine, Wisc. This statue is of our manufacture, and the model is by Van Den Bergen. Just why the sculptor's name appears as Leonard Volk, Sc, is quite a mystery. It is the writer's opinion that the finisher inscribed this name to give the statue more authenticity, not realizing that a quarter (not quite 19 years) of a century later it would come to light."

The statue is a replica of the one furnished at Clinton, Ill, so verification can be made that the sculptor was Van den Bergen. My curiosity is being somewhat aroused by the fact that the unveiling date is as 1934, and our sales date is set as 1923.

Page Two attached.

TELEPHONE AUSTIN 0356

AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY

JULES BERCHEM'S SON

Life Size and Colossal Statuary, Busts, Tablets, Bas-Reliefs

Chicago's Pioneer Art Bronze Founders—Since 1883

4921-31 W. LAKE STREET

CHICAGO September
Eighteenth
1942-

Page Two:

Mr. M.A. Cook,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

To my mind this last fact indicates one of two things, a typographical error, or a new plate has been attached either on the statue or granite pedestal. Should I have the opportunity to be in Racine, I shall most certainly try to clear up the point in question.

May these outlines assist you in your work, so will thank you to keep me advised, I remain,

Yours very truly,

AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY
Jules Berchem's Son-


Alfred J. Berchem

AJB-E.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION

LOUIS A. WARREN
DIRECTOR

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

September 21, 1942

RESEARCH BUREAU

INTERPRETS THE LIFE OF LINCOLN
AS REVEALED IN AUTHORIZED PUBLIC REC-
ORDS AND ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

LIBRARY BUREAU

GATHERS AND CATALOGUES ALL
CLASSES OF LINCOLN LITERATURE FOR
ITS REFERENCE LIBRARY.

PUBLICATION BUREAU

ISSUES A WEEKLY BULLETIN LIN-
COLN LORE, A MONTHLY MAGAZINE THE
LINCOLN KINSMAN, AND OCCASIONAL
MONOGRAPHS.

INFORMATION BUREAU

COMPILES, INDEXES, AND MAKES A-
VAILABLE, INFORMATION BEARING ON THE
SUBJECT OF LINCOLNIANA.

EXHIBIT BUREAU

COLLECTS AND DISPLAYS IN ITS MU-
SEUM: MANUSCRIPTS, PORTRAITS, CURIOS,
AND SOUVENIRS, ASSOCIATED WITH LIN-
COLN.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

PROVIDES SPEAKERS FOR MEETINGS
OF CIVIC CLUBS, SCHOOL GROUPS, CHURCH
ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU

PROMOTES ESSAY CONTESTS; AR-
RANGES PROGRAMS; AND STIMULATES AN
INTEREST IN THE STUDY OF LINCOLN'S
LIFE.

MEMORIAL BUREAU

MARKS SITES OF HISTORICAL SIG-
NIFICANCE, AND EMPHASIZES ANNIVER-
SARY OCCASIONS ASSOCIATED WITH LIN-
COLN.

B. H. Meyers Monument Company
Racine, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

I have just had considerable correspondence
regarding the Lincoln statue which is located in
Racine and which I understand was erected by your
company. This statue was made by the American Art
Bronze Foundry, Chicago.

According to Mr. Alfred J. Berchem of the
American Art Bronze Foundry the statue was sculptored
by Van Den Bergen and purchased from them in 1923.

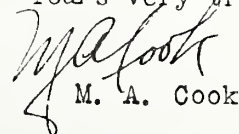
We are informed that there is a dedication
plate on the base of the statue which reads as follows:
"Cast by the American Art Bronze Foundry [Chicago].
Leonard Volk, Sc, unveiled Tuesday February 12th, 1934."

Can you explain why Volk's name appears?

February 12, 1934 falls on a Monday and not
Tuesday according to our calendars. February 12, 1924
did fall on a Tuesday. Was the statue dedicated in
1924 and the date 1934 an error in the information
from the Racine Public Library?

Your help in answering the above two questions
will be greatly appreciated. A stamped, self-addressed
envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Yours very truly,


M. A. Cook

MAC/c

*please read other
side
(over)*

Oct 1 - 1942.

Gentlemen

very sorry can not give you any
information of this deal

because Mr. B. H. Meyers died in 1937
and every thing was disbanded
and shop closed up.

therefor I can not give you any
correct information

I am answering this letter because
your mail was delivered to

Racine Monument like
in Racine Wisc

Thank you
O P MHL

D. J. Mayer

October 2, 1942

Public Library
Racine, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

There are some conflicting reports about the Lincoln statue in Racine and I am wondering if you could help us get the difference straightened.

According to Mr. Alfred J. Berchen of the American Art Bronze Foundry the statue was sculptured by Van Den Berger and purchased from them in 1923.

We are informed that there is a dedication plate on the base of the statue which reads as follows:
"Cast by the American Art Bronze Foundry [Chicago].
Leonard Volk, Sc. Unveiled Tuesday February 12th, 1934."

~~February 12th~~ not fall on Tuesday in 1934
but did in 1934.

Can you help us?

Yours very truly,

M. A. Cook

RACINE

PUBLIC

LIBRARY

RACINE, WISCONSIN

October 6, 1942

MARTHA B. MERRELL, LIBRARIAN

Mr. M. A. Cook
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Cook:

There certainly do seem to be some conflicting reports about the Lincoln statue in Racine. Altho the Art Bronze Foundry cast the statue they say that Van Den Berger was the sculptor, but the inscription on a plate on the statue, a copy of which we sent to you in a letter dated Oct. 13, 1939, says "Cast by American Art Bronze Foundry (Chicago) - Leonard Volk, Sc."

The plate does not indicate the date of the unveiling of the statue but information from our newspapers reveals that the unveiling took place Tuesday, February 12th 1924. It was donated by the community and former graduates of Lincoln school through the Lincoln Monument Association.

The size of the statue is 7 feet 4 inches high on a base 24 inches square. The bottom base is of granite rock 5 feet by 6 feet and the second base is 3 feet by 6 feet surmounted with a section of Barre Vt., polished granite.

The foundation and installation was done by the B. H. Meyers Company, 622 Sixth Street, Racine.

Yours very sincerely,

Ethel M. Yountz

Head of the Adult Department

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 454

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

December 20, 1937

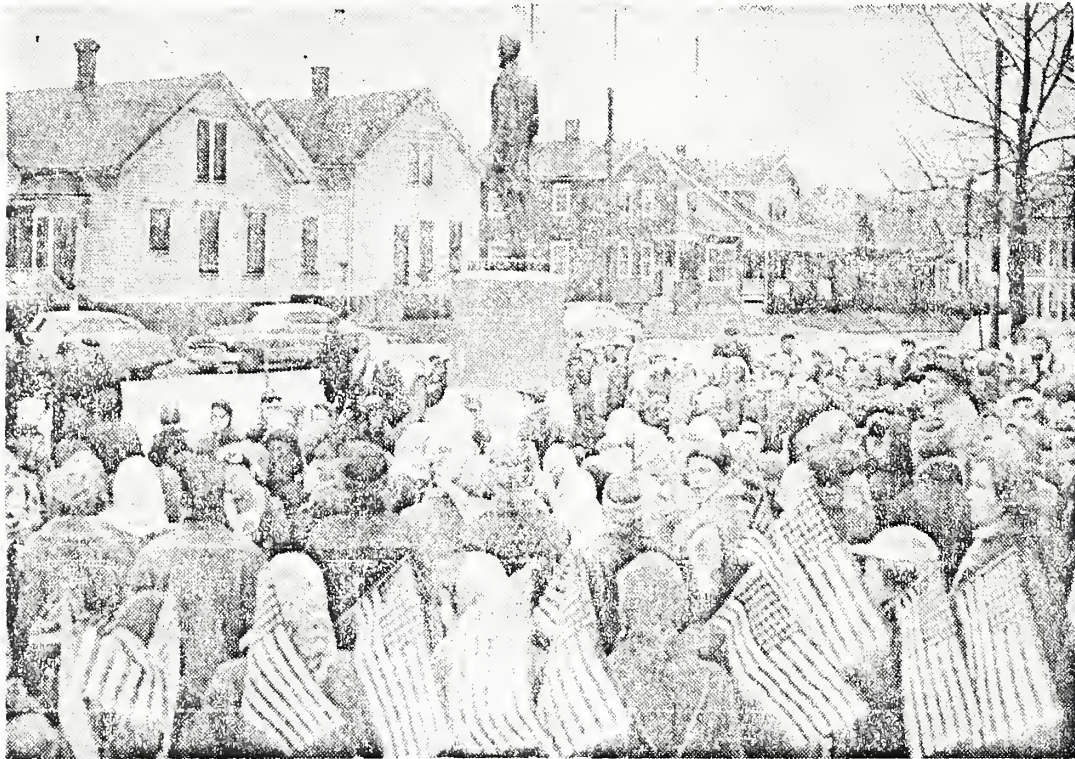
HEROIC BRONZE STATUES OF LINCOLN



VAN DEN BERGEN

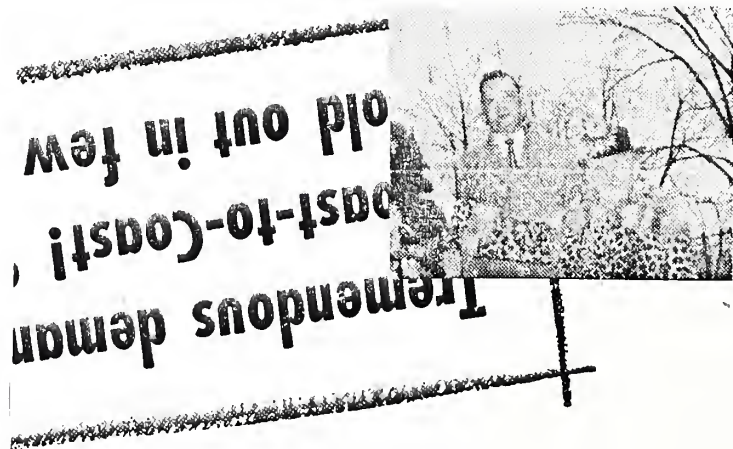
Key to Statues:—1. Brown, Brooklyn; 2. Brown, New York; 3. Rogers, Philadelphia; 4. Mead, Springfield; 5. Ball, a. Washington, b. Boston; 6. St. Gaudens, a. Chicago, b. London, Eng.; 7. Volk, Rochester, N. Y.; 8. Bissell, Edinburgh, Scotland; 9. Pelzer, a. Lincoln, N. J., b. Boise, Idaho, c. Wilkesburg, Pa.; d. Detroit; 10. Niehaus, a. Muskegon, Mich.; b. Buffalo, c. Kenosha, Wis.; 11. Hastings, a. Bunker Hill, Ill.; b. Cincinnati, J.; 12. Zeleny, Omaha; 13. Mulligan, Pana, Ill.; 14. Weinman, a. Hodgenville, Ky., b. Madison, Wis.; 15. Borglum, Newark, N. City, Iowa; 16. Elwell, East Orange, N. J.; 17. Mulligan, Chicago; 18. Weinman, Frankfort, Ky.; 19. Ganiere, Burlington, Wis.; 20. Ganiere, Newark, N. City, Iowa; 21. Van Den Bergen, a. Racine, Wis., b. Clinton, Ill.; 22. Barnard, a. Cincinnati, b. Manchester, Eng., c. Louisville; 23. Schweizer, Webster Gettysburg; 24. Schweizer, Philadelphia; 25. Gage, Topeka, Kans.; 26. Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.; 27. O'Connor, Springfield; 28. French, Lincoln, Neb.; 29. Rebeck, Alliance, Ohio; 30. St. Gaudens, Chicago; 31. Taft, Urbana, Ill.; 32. Waters, Portland, Ore.; 33. Patigian, San Francisco; 34. Crunelle, Freeport, Ill.; 35. Konti, Yonkers, N. Y.; 36. Bachman, Minneapolis; 37. Lewis, Spokane; 38. Crunelle, Dixon, Ill.; 39. Fraser, Jersey City, N. J.; 40. Kalish, Cleveland; 41. Keck, Wabash, Ind.; 42. Manship, Fort Wayne, Ind.; 43. Cercere, Milwaukee; 44. Hering, Indianapolis; 45. Baker, Buffalo.

FEBRUARY-12-1953



—Journal-Times Photos

PAY LINCOLN HOMAGE — Students from Lincoln School dedicated the Lincoln statue; cleaned last week for the first time. The school children Thursday students 29 years ago at the featured Prof. C. A. Gilman's school, and scores of flag waving spectators were attracted to the the minutes recorded by the sponsored the program. (See



**Tremendous demand
East-to-Coast!
old out in few**

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1952-10

*Lincoln in Marble
and Bronze*

BY F. LAURISTON BULLARD

A Publication of
THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION
Springfield, Illinois

Rutgers University Press
New Brunswick, New Jersey

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MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*This Statue Attests
an Epigram*

OF ONE Lincoln statue it may fairly be said that its replica is far better known, even among Lincoln scholars, than the original. This statue was the work of a "Belgian sculptor," so-called, of whom hardly more is known than his name, A. L. Van den Bergen. A plate on the base of the original in Racine, Wisconsin, bears the single word "Volk," but how this name came to be on the plate is an unsolved mystery; the bronze casting was done by the American Art and Bronze Company of Chicago, which firm is known to have named Van den Bergen as the sculptor. We think, while reserving the right to alter our opinion on the appearance of evidence to the contrary, that the "Lincoln" in Clinton, Illinois, is a replica of the Racine statue. Comparison of photographs provides a basis for this conclusion, and at least one reference work states that view to be correct. The Clinton statue is "signed" "Van den Bergen, Sc." Although the Illinois replica is more widely known, due in part to its connection with one of Lincoln's most famous epigrams, the Racine original must have the right of way in our account of Van den Bergen's work.

The *Racine Journal-News*, today the *Journal-Times*, carried this paragraph about the statue on Lincoln's birthday, 1924: ". . . The Ninth Ward Booster Club, its officials and members, should receive the congratulations of every Racine citizen for its labors in raising the fund necessary to provide this lasting tribute. And thanks should be extended to those whose contributions made it possible. The school children can well take pride in this statue and feel an ownership in it because of their pennies, nickels and dimes contributed for it."

That in brief is the story of this memorial. The movement for its acquisition was fathered by an aggressive promotional organization having one city ward for its field of operations, although gifts were received from citizens residing elsewhere. The statue was erected on a triangular plot where three streets intersect. It stands on a granite base. The inscription is not the closing words of the Gettysburg Address, so often encountered in connection with our "Lincolns," but the open-

ing sentence: ". . . Our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." The dedication exercises were conducted in the evening in the auditorium of the Lincoln High School. Spotlights focused on the statue as "little Charles Davies, Jr., pulled the cords" to unfurl the flag that wrapped the figure.

After an interval of seven years the replica was put up at Clinton on Armistice Day in 1931. Lincoln was as well acquainted with this locality, in Salt Creek valley in central Illinois, as with the valley of the Sangamon. In his dedicatory address that day, Judge Lawrence B. Stringer of Lincoln said: "From 1839 to the very year in which Mr. Lincoln was elected President of the United States, DeWitt County was continuously a part of the old Eighth Judicial District which he traveled and in which he practiced law. . . . In the old brick court house which occupied the Clinton public square, for nearly two decades Mr. Lincoln was present at substantially every term of the DeWitt Circuit Court." It was at Clinton, the speaker might have added, that Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas appeared in the only murder trial in which they were on the same side. This was in 1840, when Spencer Turner was charged with the murder of Matthew K. Martin. Lincoln and Douglas convinced the jury of Turner's innocence. At Clinton, also, in a campaign for another term in the United States Senate, Douglas spoke one day in 1858 for three hours, with Lincoln among his auditors. Two days later they arranged for their series of joint debates.

The leader in the movement to obtain a Lincoln statue for the Clinton courthouse yard was L. O. Williams, a local attorney and Lincoln enthusiast. The ceremonies for the unveiling were held in the afternoon in the First Methodist Church, owing to the unobliging disposition of "the weather man," but the unveiling was managed in advance of the speaking program. Judge Stringer's address enumerated the chief attributes which had "made Lincoln great." Honesty, "not merely legal honesty" or "conventional honesty," as "the best policy" with "accent on the word 'policy,'" but that "honesty which is absolute and fundamental." There were his humility, his humanity, his sense of justice, "his devotion to the cause of the common people and his optimistic belief in the ultimate triumph of the eternal truth" — that was "our Lincoln of central Illinois."

This is not an inspired statue, but it looks more like the man than do

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Harry E. Pr

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Phineas T. Ba
favors Lincoln
despite his ya
O'Donnell Ber
in *Abraham Li*
Phillips, 1910.

many other statues with their padded chests and broadened shoulders, and it expresses the patriotic sentiments of the community. On the back of the pedestal we read: "That it may not be forgotten that here for nineteen years as a Lawyer and Friend he was Counselor and Teacher of our Forefathers, this Statue is erected by the Citizens of DeWitt County to the Memory of Abraham Lincoln." On the front are two statements of Lincoln's: "I must stand with anybody that stands right; stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong"; and the famous epigram: "You can fool all the people part of the time, and part of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."* Below this appears the attestation, "Spoken in an address at Clinton, July 27, 1858, by Abraham Lincoln."

SOURCES: Correspondence of Emil C. Wiegand and F. R. Starbuck, Racine, Wisconsin; courtesies by M. L. Houser and Ernest E. East, Peoria, Illinois; the Racine Public Library, and the Vespasian Warner Public Library of Clinton; *Clinton Centennial*, 1935; Lawrence B. Stringer, "Abraham Lincoln," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, January, 1932; Harry E. Pratt, *Lincoln 1840-1846*.

For the Veterans of Three Wars

THE city of Alliance, Ohio, proudly claims to possess the first joint memorial ever erected in honor of the veterans of three wars of the United States — the Civil War, the War with Spain, and the first World War. This claim is probably justified, for this memorial was dedicated in 1924, while the colossal monument by Gutzon Borglum in Newark, New Jersey, with forty-two figures representing the entire military history of the country, was dedicated in 1926. President Lincoln, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Union forces in the Civil War, represents the veterans of that conflict; plain soldiers in uniform, one

* The authenticity of this saying has been challenged, and it has been attributed to Phineas T. Barnum, Robert G. Ingersoll, and others. The trend of scholarly opinion favors Lincoln's authorship. Joseph W. Fifer, held by many to be a competent witness despite his years, stood for it on the authority of his informant, Milton Hay (James O'Donnell Bennett, *Private "Joe" Fifer*, 1936, p. 22). See also Richard Price Morgan in *Abraham Lincoln by Some Men Who Knew Him*, essays assembled by Isaac Newton Phillips, 1910, p. 102, and Isaac Newton Phillips, *Lincoln*, 1910, pp. 108f.



THE PRESIDENT

RACINE, WISCONSIN — SCULPTOR — A.L. VAN den BERGEN

**LINCOLN SHRINE
BOY SCOUT
PILGRIMAGE
FEBRUARY 12**



**SPONSORED BY
THE LINCOLN
LIBRARY AND
MUSEUM**

Local man to restore Lincoln statue

BY MICHAEL BURKE
Journal Times

Three score and 13 years ago, our forefathers brought forth in this city a new statue, cast in bronze and dedicated to the proposition that State Street needed a really impressive monument.

Now that statue, of Abraham Lincoln, needs a face lift. And a local man has offered to lead the charge.

Steven Rogstad's fascination with Abraham Lincoln goes right to the core of the subject: Lincoln's upbringing, his integrity, his politics.

But Rogstad is also concerned with surface matters. And he wants the corroded, pitted, streaked statue at 1800 State Street restored.

Undertaking the project as a one-man committee is Rogstad's contribution to Racine's Sesquicentennial celebration. Having obtained the needed approvals, Rogstad will try to raise about \$15,000 for the restoration.

► More on **STATUE**, Page 7A

► For more on the Lincoln statue in Racine, visit our website at: www.racinecounty.com/statues



JIM SLOSIAREK *Journal Times*

Steven Rogstad plans to raise funds to restore the statue of Abraham Lincoln in Racine.

the Journal Times Wednesday, December 3, 1997 **7A**
page editor: Sam Manchester

STATUE / Lincoln

From Page 1A

"It's not just a matter of getting some volunteers out on a Saturday morning with scrub brushes and a pail," he said.

Rather, a professional refinishing will require scaffolding, sand-blasting with small glass beads, then application of a lacquer-like coating. It will take five to seven working days.

Rogstad is about to launch a "full-fledged marketing campaign" to raise the funds. He will seek grants and approach Lincoln organizations throughout the country and Racine area groups, businesses and schools.

Rogstad said the 1924 Lincoln statue, at the corner of State and Prospect streets and Carlisle Avenue, is one of nine in the state and three in Racine County.

It was built to "heroic" proportions; that is, the six-foot, four-inch Lincoln grew a foot when Chicago sculptor Albert Louis Van den Berghen converted him to bronze.

Racine's Ninth Ward Booster's Club raised the money for a gateway monument that would be seen by people entering the city from Northwestern Avenue, Rogstad said. No one knows, however, why the volunteers chose the 16th president — or why they erected the statue in a year which matches no Lincoln milestones.

"It was an off year," Rogstad said. "The math doesn't add up."

If anyone would know the statue's history, Rogstad, 38, would be the man. He's a history buff but fairly

fanatical about Lincoln, and owns more than 4,000 books about the man. He spends up to three hours a day on his hobby.

"We've had to make two moves now on account of my interest in Lincoln," Rogstad said, referring to times when his wife told him their home did not have enough room for both the family and a deceased president.

"We've got about 2,100 square feet just for Mr. Lincoln and 2,100 square feet for us," Rogstad said.

He is not sure quite how he got hooked. But one early memory amply illustrates his passion for everything Lincolnian. In fourth grade, on Lincoln's birthday, his class had a substitute teacher.

"She read the entire Lincoln entry out of 'Encyclopedia Britannica,'" Rogstad said. "I think every other kid in that classroom was just about bored out of their minds — except me. I was riveted by it."

Rogstad said Racine's Sesquicentennial is the perfect time to refurbish the statue. The sculpture had one reconditioning in about 1953, but now has again lost the deep, dark brown gloss of its original self.

Anyone interested in supporting the restoration may contact Rogstad at 681-4972.

He said the coating, when the job is done, should protect Honest Abe for at least another 50 years.

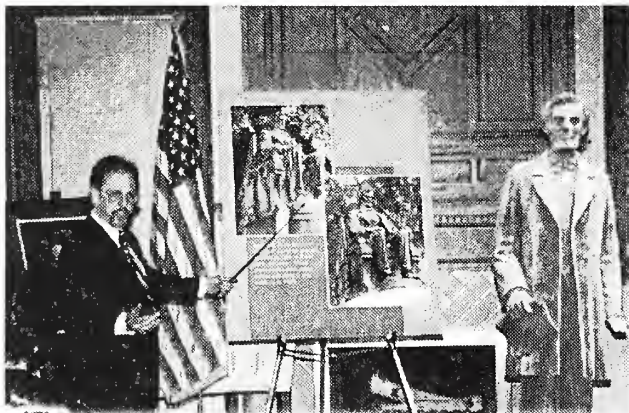
"I suppose it's a remote possibility," he remarked, "that I'll be doing this again when I'm 88 years old."

1848

Racine Sesquicentennial Projects

1998

Steven Rogstad, Racine's own expert on Abraham Lincoln, launched a campaign from the Museum to raise funds for the restoration of the **Lincoln Statue** on State Street near the Lincoln Apartments (which was the site of Lincoln School). Cleaning and stabilizing the statue will cost \$25,000. City approval and an account for donations have been arranged. Donations can be sent to: Lincoln Statue Restoration Fund, c/o Steven Rogstad, 5419 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402-2234. The plan is to rededicate the statue in the Fall.



Steven Rogstad explaining the restoration process and its significance at Racine Heritage Museum last December when the campaign was launched to raise funds for the project.

Racine Heritage Museum is producing exhibits on Racine Industries: Their Histories, Legacies and Products for the Sesquicentennial celebrations. The **Hamilton Beach** exhibit is nearly complete and we greatly appreciate the support from Hamilton Beach/Proctor Silex, as well as Prism Designs of Racine. In addition, there will be a large exhibit on **fractional horsepower motor** history and companies in Racine, and exhibits on several companies such as **Twin Disc** and **Haban Manufacturing**. These will open with gala celebrations in the first week of August along with the other Racine Incorporation Day activities. The exhibit on **The Horlicks: Local Influence, World-wide Impact**, will open May 2.

Racine's Postal Legacy, an exhibit of Racine postal cancellations and business advertising envelopes, opens April 24 with a reception and the appearances of Ben Franklin and Racine's Sesquicentennial mascot, Gilbert the Gull. Three hands-on educational activities have been produced. The exhibit will occupy more than 30 linear feet and includes rare materials as well as postal items familiar to many of us. After the exhibit closes at the Museum, major parts will be transferred to the Post Office on Main Street where it will be the first of the Sesquicentennial legacy exhibit.



Special Postal Cancellation for Racine's Sesquicentennial will occur August 7 and 8. Donald Vander Leest, a Racine artist, is designing the cancellation stamp which will be applied to Racine Sesquicentennial envelopes with the Wisconsin State Sesquicentennial stamp on it. These will sell for \$4.00 by Racine's Sesquicentennial Committee.

Special **historic markers** are being researched for several sites in the Racine area. Mary Murdoch is producing a slide show on **Remarkable Women in Racine** for use by clubs, schools and anyone interested. The Southeast Wisconsin Aviation Museum at Batten Airfield is producing an exhibit on the **History of Racine Airports and the Airport Beacon** which opens May 1st. The **Frank Lloyd Wright Tour** will be June 5-6, a **Legacy exhibit** at Horlick High School is being developed and Racine Heritage Museum is planning a booklet on **car production in Racine**, as well as the comprehensive history book, *Invention City: A Sesquicentennial History of Racine* by John Buenker with illustration research by Richard Ammann.

Some quilts from the Heritage Museum collections are to be included in the annual **Avenue of Quilts** on Main Street. Everyone is also invited to the play *Senses*, documenting African-American history, March 28 at J.I. Case High School. The Heritage Museum, Racine Arts Council and Racine County Convention and Visitors Bureau are co-sponsoring an exhibit on **Ethnic Architecture of Eastern Wisconsin** to be installed at the Bureau July 19-August 20.

Between seven and twelve **Tall Ships** will be in Racine's Harbor August 6, 7, 8 and 9. **Old Boats/ Old Friends** will have an exhibit of Racine-made boats, and the Heritage Museum will have exhibits on **Boat Manufacturing in Racine** and **history of the harbor**. The Museum will also be selling tee-shirts with the Racine Boat Company logo on them and raffle tickets for a wooden Old Town canoe.

You will want to be a part of all this excitement and history making activities. Please call Christopher or Mary Ellen and let them know when you can volunteer a few hours for celebratory activities, 636-3926.



Racine Heritage Museum

701 S. Main Street, Racine, WI 53403-1211
(414) 636-3926 voice • (414) 636-3940 FAX

<http://www.racine.org/remuseum.html>

Business Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:00

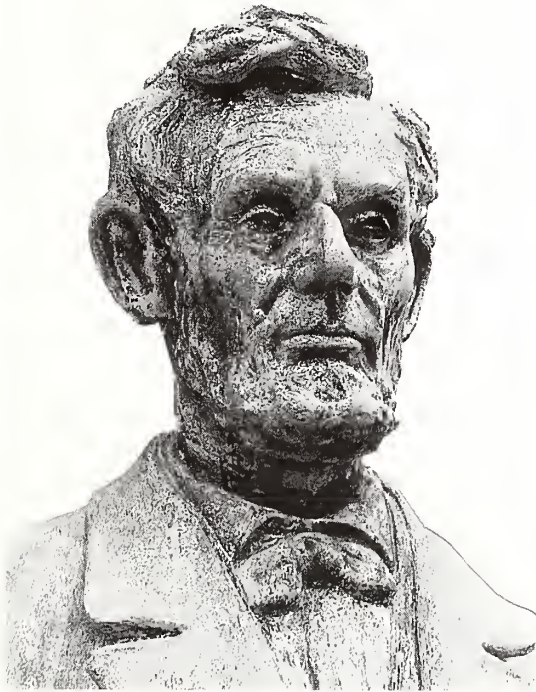
Exhibition Hours: Tue.-Fri. 9:00-5:00 and Sat.-Sun. 1:00-5:00

Archive Hours: Tue. & Sat. 1:00-4:00

Closed Major Holidays



**The Racine
Sesquicentennial Committee
and the
Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin**



*...invite you to help celebrate Racine's
150th birthday by...*



Lincoln Monument Restoration Project

Racine's Lincoln Monument is one of three heroic-size statues of Lincoln in Racine County. The other two are Frederick C. Hibbard's 1943 granite study of Lincoln and his wife on the Racine campus of Gateway Technical College, and George E. Ganiere's statue of a meditative Lincoln in Burlington, dedicated in 1913. Six additional statues of Lincoln can be found throughout Wisconsin at Madison (Adolph A. Weinman, 1909), Milwaukee (Caetano Cecere, 1934), Ripon (Clarence A. Shaler, 1939), Manitowoc (Frank Brandt, 1961), and Kenosha (Charles H. Niehaus, 1909; Michael P. Martino, 1997). The City of Racine owns the original bronze casting of Van den Berghen's statue. A bronze replica of the figure was erected at Clinton, Illinois in 1931.

The Lincoln Monument Restoration Project is a program under the direction of the Racine Sesquicentennial History/Legacy Committee. The Committee will be raising funds for the statue's restoration from available grants, civic organizations, businesses, school children, religious communities, and citizens.



Mr. Steven K. Rogstad, chairman of the Project, is available to discuss the program with interested groups. Please contact him at 414.681.4972.

Persons may contribute to the restoration fund by sending a check or money order to:

**LINCOLN MONUMENT
RESTORATION PROJECT
5419 Idlewood Drive
Racine, WI 53402-2234.**

About the Sculptor

Albert Louis Van den Berghen was born to Joseph and Lucile [LeGrand] Van den Berghen in Vilvorde, Belgium on September 8, 1850, and emigrated to America in 1876. He studied sculpture and architecture at the School of Fine Arts in Brussels. His quiet disposition and natural gift for modeling earned him the title, "the hermit sculptor."

He taught design at the Art Institute of Chicago, and was a member of the Chicago Architectural Club. He was recognized mostly for his over-mantel bass relief marble and plaster panels for fireplaces in large homes overlooking Lake Michigan, and for his studies of human heads.

His sculptures were displayed at art exhibitions in Philadelphia (1876) and Chicago (1890). Van den Berghen's personal favorite piece of art which he made was his statuette of Abraham Lincoln, which was probably used as a working model when he created the statue later erected in Racine.

He died at the age of 71 on October 12, 1921 at River Forest, Illinois, and is buried at Palos Oak Hill Cemetery. At the time of his death he had been married to his only wife Eugenia for twenty-nine years. The marriage produced three children, only one of whom, a daughter named Mignon, lived to adulthood.



Van den Berghen with his statuette of Lincoln

Celebrate 150 Years of Racine and Wisconsin

As Racine celebrates the 150th anniversary of its incorporation, it has the unique opportunity to share this occasion with the state of Wisconsin's sesquicentennial. With this history in common, it is apparent that Racine's "Roots," the successful heritage of our city, have had a significant impact on the growth of Wisconsin, and will continue to launch both our city and our state into the future.

Please join our local companies and organizations in a year-long anniversary party honoring Racine's past, present, and future by participating in activities that will be fun and educational for Racine area families, residents and visitors of all ages.

The Sesquicentennial's History/Legacy Committee is dedicated to preserving the record of Racine's past, as well as identifying and sustaining local landmarks. More helping hands are needed to restore Racine's bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln. To volunteer your time and experience, or to learn about how you can incorporate the restoration enterprise into your family, business, group, or school activities, please contact the Lincoln Monument Restoration Project.

THE LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP OF WISCONSIN was founded on February 24, 1940 at the Memorial Union on the campus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, incorporated in 1950, and is the fourth oldest Lincoln group operating in the United States. One of its objectives is to preserve Lincoln landmarks in Wisconsin.


Every April members meet for a dinner-program. Papers discussing aspects of Lincoln's life and career are read, and later published as printed booklets. To date, 56 lectures have been published. The organization also publishes a scholarly newsletter that chronicles group activities and emphasizes Wisconsin connections to the Lincolns.

The Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin is a non-profit volunteer organization with no paid officers. Inquiries about membership may be sent in care of the Lincoln Monument Restoration Project.

...helping to restore the City's heroic-sized bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln



Sculpted by Chicago artist Albert Louis Van den Berghen, the figure was dedicated on February 12, 1924 to commemorate the 113th anniversary of the sixteenth president's birth. It was cleaned and re-dedicated on February 12, 1953. The 7'4" statue and granite base cost Racine-area businesses, organizations and individuals \$3,500 to erect in 1924. It will cost around \$15,000 to have it properly restored to its original condition. The monument will be refinished and re-dedicated in 1998 as part of Racine's Sesquicentennial Celebration, with assistance from the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin.

 **Lincoln Monument Restoration Project**
5419 Idlewood Drive
Racine, WI 53402-2234



LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP OF WISCONSIN

5419 IDLEWOOD DRIVE • RACINE, WISCONSIN 53402-2234

TELEPHONE AND FAX 414-681-4972

January 1, 1998

Dear LFW Members:

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Publications
Historical Bulletin
The Lincoln Ledger

When the Fellowship was established in 1943, it made as one of its objectives the goal of preserving Lincoln landmarks in Wisconsin. These landmarks include the Tallman House in Janesville (where Lincoln stayed overnight during his 1859 speaking tour in Wisconsin), Hanchett Hall in Beloit (where Lincoln spoke), The DeKoven Center in Racine (the site of a former school at which Mary Lincoln considered enrolling Tad), a few highway markers, and nine heroic-size statues of Abraham Lincoln, plus one of Mary.

Six of the nine statues are located in the southeast portion of the state; two in Racine, two in Kenosha, and one in the cities of Milwaukee and Burlington. The others are situated in Madison, Ripon, and Manitowoc. Brief histories of these monuments can be found in F. Lauriston Bullard's landmark 1953 study, Lincoln in Marble and Bronze, except for the statue in Manitowoc and the new bronze figures of Lincoln and Hay at Carthage College in Kenosha, which were installed this past summer.

Most of Wisconsin's statues were unveiled in the early decades of this century as communities celebrated the centennial of Lincoln's birth, or erected them in a spirit of patriotic fervor. Chronologically, the Wisconsin figures were unveiled in the following order: Kenosha, 1909; Madison, 1909; Burlington, 1913; Racine, 1924; Milwaukee, 1934; Ripon, 1939; Racine, 1943, Manitowoc, 1961, and Kenosha, 1997.

Most of these monuments have been regularly maintained or recently restored, but a few of the figures are in desperate need of professional restoration, such as Racine's standing Lincoln by Albert Louis Van den Berghen and Kenosha's seated figure of Lincoln by Charles H. Niehaus.

*A historical group devoted to the study of Abraham Lincoln
Organized February 24, 1940*

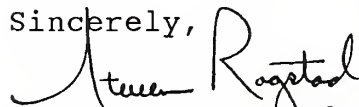
I am working towards having the Van den Berghen figure professionally restored on behalf of this organization and the Racine Sesquicentennial Committee. The restoration work is scheduled to take place next August, with a re-dedication ceremony planned for early September. Restoring the statue to its original beauty will cost around \$15,000, which will be obtained from available grants, local civic groups, area businesses, schools, religious communities, private donations, and the Lincoln community.

Attached is a folder which contains material about the project.

As a member of the Fellowship, I hope you will join me in preserving this unique piece of Lincoln statuary, thereby fulfilling an important objective of this fine organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Checks and money orders should be made out to the **Lincoln Monument Restoration Project**, and mailed to the Fellowship's office at 5419 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI, 53402-2234. I will be delivering all donations on a weekly basis to the City of Racine's financial officers for the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Steven K. Rogstad
Secretary & Editor

Chairman
Lincoln Monument Restoration Project



From the desk of—
LOUIS A WARREN

with the

D. H. Wiggins monument

622-6th st

Rockville wis

Van Der Zee.

See circus poster in

Mulligan's



VAN DEN BERGEN, - Racine, Wisc. DRAWER 214
Albert

Sculptors-V

